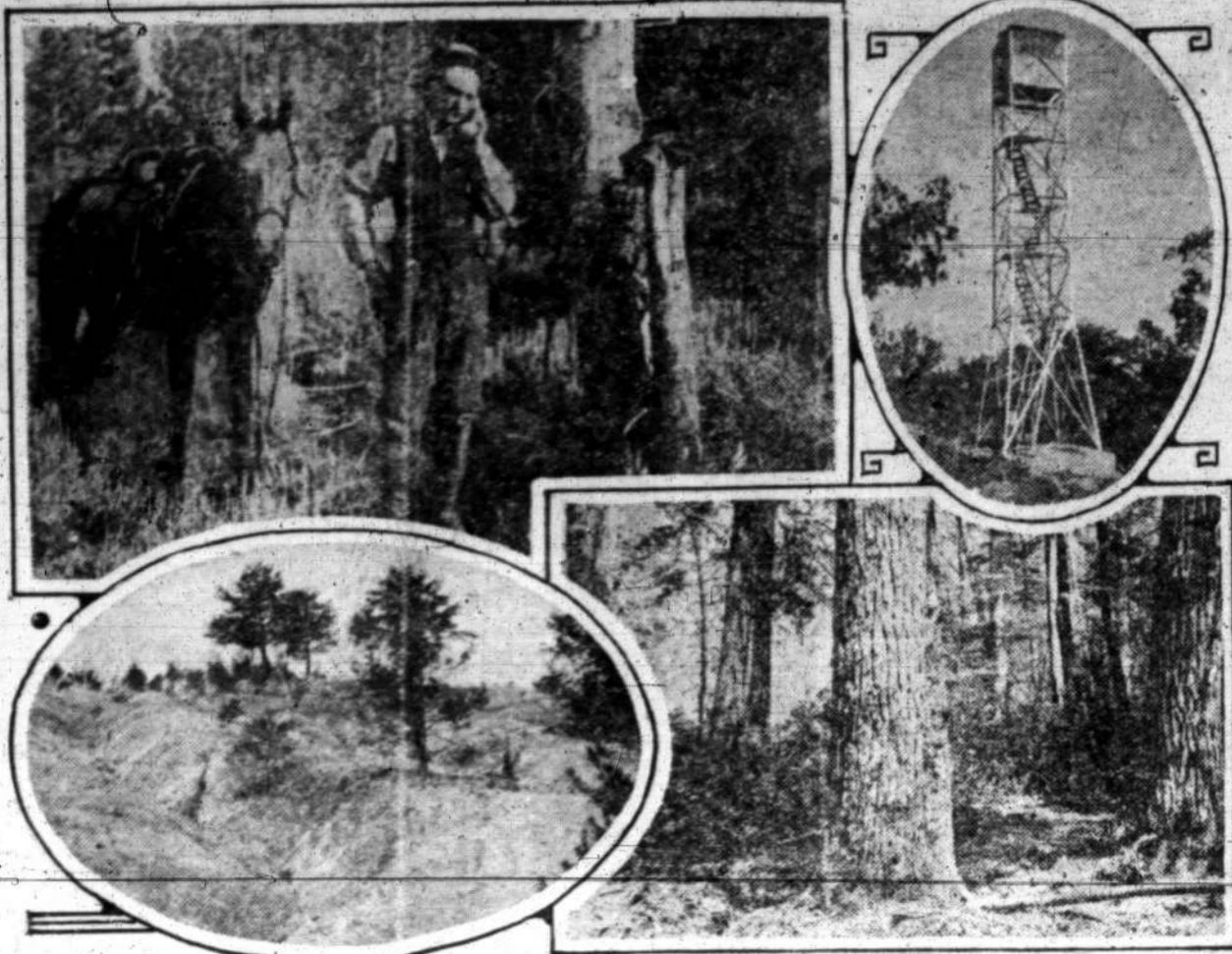


The Pocahontas Times.

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MARLINTON, POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, NOVEMBER 1, 1928

\$1.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE



FOREST NEWS LETTER

Under date of October 16, the West Virginia Forest Service of the Game and Fish have issued volume I and number 1 of the "Eastern Greenbrier News Letter." O. O. Nutter, of Lewisburg is Greenbrier District Forester and H. Y. Forsythe, is the Eastern District Forester, with headquarters at Elkins. This news letter will be issued once a month. It is for the personnel of the Forest Fire Control, but it contains matter of general interest.

The following items are about four of the five lookout towers and observers in Pocahontas County. The other tower is on Black Mountain.

On Briery Mountain: The steel was purchased for a 35 foot tower, the concrete forms were built during August, and the steel is now on the ground ready for erection. The state lines have been repaired, and we plan to erect the tower before the fall fire season. R. N. Williams, observer at

this tower, has been busy during the latter part of the summer running a threshing machine and threshing grain for his neighbors, but he plans to again take the place as observer this fall.

In the Beaver Lick Mountain area: Three miles of grounded line was built connecting the tower with the North Fork of Anthony Creek. The line was built under the supervision of J. V. Crigger, Observer at the tower. The completion of this line enables us to give protection to a section of timber lands on Anthony Creek that has been very hard to give protection to in the past, owing to a lack of telephone communication.

Mr. A. G. Dean, our ranger on the Watoga Forest has been very busy for a while back in looking after the interests of the state in cutting telephone poles from the Watoga Forest. Chas. Root, observer at Bald Knob, reports a very busy season at the Heavener Grove. Mr. Root has a nice grove of trees near his home that has been fitted up as a recreation

park with a dance pavilion, lunch room, and other attractions. I recently talked with Mr. and Mrs. Root and they told me they were planning on going back to Bald Knob again this fall. We recently had the telephone lines repaired there, and with our former observer, State Association rangers on duty in that area, we feel that the problem of fire prevention and control is solved for that tower.

Brown Miller, observer on Michael Mountain, has been very busy during the summer months working at the nursery on the Seneca Forest. Damp ing off fungus got an early start in the nursery beds in the spring, and Mr. Miller has had a continuous fight all summer to hold it in check. However the beds are looking fine now and other beds are planned for planting this fall. With the purchase of two acres additional for transplant beds, a building for tools, equipment and improvements made we will soon have a nice nursery there.

half million dollars of the tax payers' money has been literally wasted, since the gross sales tax became effective, handed out as you well know and knew at the time, to lame ducks and political henchmen, and for no return whatever except past or future party service.

If the taxpayers of the State are thus saved from \$100,000 to \$180,000 in Legislative expenses alone at each session of the Legislature when the house is Democratic, what would be the saving if both House and Senate were Democratic? And by the same token what indeed would be the saving if the Legislative, the Executive and the Administrative departments were all Democratic? This is what I propose as one very effective means of reducing the tax burdens.

You are well aware, Senator, that this system of graft and treasury looting was not confined to the Legislative branch, but extended alike to the executive and administrative departments, and to the public institutions as well. Compare for instance the appropriations for the various executive offices prior to 1921, with those immediately following after the passage of the gross sales bill—take the auditor's office for instance—for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1920, \$56,011.97 for all purposes, while for 1921 it jumps to \$81,746.39 and has hung around that figure ever since—all lump sum appropriations. It was shown in the Criminal Court of Kanawha County in the Bond case what became of many thousands of dollars of these lump sum appropriations, and let me say right here that John Bond had no better opportunity to misappropriate the lump sums entrusted to him than had his brother officers to misappropriate those entrusted to them.

That enormous sums have been wasted and misappropriated, since the gross sales tax was imposed upon the people, none will gainsay; how many millions were diverted, no one knows, but you could make a pretty good guess.

I will now reply to your question as to what will be my attitude toward tax reduction and the gross sales tax:

In the event of my election as Governor, I will insist on the greatest economy in all departments of government, consistent with efficiency; I will insist that all appropriations of public money shall be classified and itemized and that so called lump sum appropriations shall cease; I will insist that no employee be on the payroll of the State who is not authorized by law or whose services can be dispensed with; I will insist that in every branch, those who make, execute or administer the law, shall themselves live within the law; I will insist on the passage of bills such as those passed by the Democratic House of Delegates and rejected by the Republican Senate, at the 1923 session fixing the number of employees and salary of each, in the Legislative, Executive and Administrative departments; in other words I will endeavor to apply exactly the same rules, regulations and practices in carrying on the state's business as the prudent merchant, coal operator or banker would employ in his business.

Having succeeded in doing this, I firmly believe that the expenses of government will be so curtailed that sufficient revenues will be provided by the ordinary methods of taxation, and that resort to extraordinary methods, such as the gross sales tax, will not be necessary.

If, however, it becomes apparent that upon the repeal of the gross sales tax, a deficit in the revenues would result, I would recommend that necessary funds be raised by means of a privilege tax upon business, not such as the gross sales law which imposes a tax on all businesses selling over \$10,000.00 in value, whether at a profit or at a loss, but providing a graduated tax on net profits, beginning, say, with \$5,000.00 as a minimum, at a low rate, and increasing the ratio for the higher brackets, so that he who makes the greater profit will pay the greater rate.

You ask further for specific instances of lower tax rates in neighboring states. It is a well known fact that tax rates are in the same ratio with per capita expenditures.

The Report of the State Tax Commission to the Legislature of 1927, of which body you were a member, states on page 18 that the State of West Virginia is more heavily bonded at the present time for state debt than any of our neighboring states and that the per capita expenses of state government in the year 1925 in West Virginia was larger than any of the bordering states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia and Kentucky, being more than double that of the State of Ohio, where the educational and highway facilities are equally as good if not better. I understand this statement to mean that every man, woman and child in West Virginia is being taxed in a

THE ELECTION

At the election next Tuesday, November 6, the voters will be handed Constitutional Amendment ballots in addition to the regular ballot. This editor will vote yes on each of these constitutional amendments.

One amendment has to do with the meeting of the legislature. Now our legislative sessions are divided into two sessions. The legislators sit for forty-five days and introduce bills. Then they come home for a spell, and go back for a couple of weeks to act on the bills introduced. It was one of those bright ideas that did not work well in practice. The move now is to change the meetings of the legislature back to the former system of a continuous sitting without the expense incident to coming home and going back.

The other proposed constitutional amendment provides for the issuing of thirty-five million dollars more for State roads now being built. The Pocahontas Times is for this amendment too. The State was committed to the plan of good road building by the borrowing method when the voters approved the fifty million dollar bond issue some years ago. That bond issue was not sufficient to pay for all the roads the state needed. Our road system is not complete. It requires thirty-five million dollars more to finish it. In the beginning there might have been a question as to whether the bond issue or a pay as you build plan was preferable, but with the system about two-thirds completed, it seems to this writer poor business to change plans now. Besides, the interest and sinking fund is provided by the comparatively painless method of taxing automobiles and gasoline. We need our roads connected, and the quickest and best and most economical way now to get them is to vote for the bond issue.

Maybe a word how to vote the ballot will not be out of place. Always mark an X in the circle at the head of the ticket of your choice. Then cross over into the other columns and mark an X before the name of any person you wish to vote for on that ticket. The names will be counted on your ticket where you have crossed over to the other ticket, and that change will be counted too. Unscrupulous politicians have exaggerated the possibility of losing your vote by spotting the ballot by voting for the man of your choice, regardless of party and ticket. The ballot is so large that many intelligent people have the good plan of taking The Pocahontas Times which has the ballot printed in it and marking the way they want to vote, and bringing the paper with them to the polls, and then mark the ballot by it. If you are not sure of yourself, ask the poll clerk to assist you.

And by the way, from Governor Smith for President on down to the bottom of the ticket, Senate, Congress, State, State Senate, Judge, County and District—has not the Democratic party put forward about the best ticket ever for the consideration of the voters. Neely, Joe Smith, Alf Taylor, Andrew Price, and A. G. Matthews, just to mention a few.

Then the roll of the County ticket. They are your neighbors and mine; known and approved by us all. For Sheriff we offer Fred W. Ruckman, of the Levels District. A farm boy, he fitted himself for the practice of law. Just about the time he was getting established in this profession the untimely death of his father called him back to take charge of the farm. He is one of the county's most successful and progressive farmers. He is also president of one of the county's banks. Mr. Ruckman will offer a strong line of deputies if he is elected. Any one of them is good sheriff material. Joe Woodell of the Greenbank District has proven his worth as deputy sheriff the past four years. George H. Waig is a prominent, popular citizen of Edray District, farmer, mechanic and lumber scaler. M. C. Kincaid, office deputy, is a popular business man of Marlinton, widely acquainted over the county. Lock Herold, for jailer is from the Huntersville District. He is close kin to my family, so I won't say much about him, but he is a good man, nevertheless.

Neal Nottingham for assessor is acceptable in every particular. He is a farm boy who stayed on the farm and for years he cared for an invalid

ratio more than double that of Ohio and greater than any of the neighboring states except Maryland, where as in the last year of administration under Hon. John J. Cornwell, the per capita expenditure for state government in West Virginia was less than that of any bordering state.

I am reliably informed by those who are acquainted with tax problems that the State of West Virginia under the leadership of Governor Byrd has abolished useless offices, consolidated others, and materially altered and revised its tax laws, resulting in increased efficiency and tax reductions, without any decrease in the amount of public improvements, and as a result of which Virginia has made great strides industrially within the past two years.

I sincerely trust this letter will give you the desired information.

Very truly yours,
J. Alfred Taylor.

C. C. CLENDENEN

Solicits Your Support

On

Tuesday, November 6th

Candidate for

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

SENATOR NEELY

From the northern panhandle of West Virginia to McDowell county in the south, friends and supporters of Senator M. M. Neely are confident he will be returned to the United States Senate with a substantial majority over his opponent Dr. H. D. Hatfield.

Regardless of what claims may be made for Dr. Hatfield as governor the notable record of Senator Neely in Washington entitles him to the support of every citizen who places the interests of the state above politics.

In all the history of West Virginia there has been no stancher defender of his home state or a more conscientious representative in Washington than the able Fairmont candidate who seeks reelection on November 6.

Senator Neely's efforts to save the West Virginia coal industry from the attacks of the Pennsylvania operators working through a hostile administration and appointments to the Interstate Commerce Commission is but one of many services which make his record of the past six years one of 100 per cent loyalty and efficiency to his state.

Senator Neely's terms has been notable in examples of service to veterans of the World War, Spanish-American war and Civil war, to the farmer, to labor, and to every constituent who has called upon him. He has stood fearlessly for the enforcement of all laws and for all progressive measures of legislation.

And whatever he has done has been in a purely nonpartisan manner. The security and progress of West Virginia has been his one guiding principle.

Senator Neely is wending up an aggressive campaign. He has presented the issues of the campaign to voters in every section of the state. And when the ballots are marked on election day, his return to Washington by a splendid majority is confidently looked forward to by his supporters and all others interested in the welfare of the state who realize the importance of experience and ability in the National Capitol such as demonstrated by Senator Neely.

father. He is the leading potato grower of the county. In addition he raises stock and does general farming. He is honest, able and a good judge of values. If he is elected he will offer to the county court as his deputies Elba Callison, of the Little Levels, and Luther Coyner, of Edray District. These men are progressive farmers, and good business men, with all the qualifications necessary for competent assessors. His office deputy will be Miss Anna Lee Ervine from Huntersville. She is a successful, popular school teacher, and the books will be in good hands when she takes charge of the office.

Allan P. Edgar is the nominee to

succeed himself as Prosecuting attorney. No county has ever had a better or more able commonwealths attorney. His record is known and read of all men. He ought to be retained in this office by the largest vote he has ever had. His vote has always been phenomenally large, but don't neglect to vote for him anyway; this election business is uncertain sometimes.

J. Lanty McNeel is standing for reelection to the county court. Safe and sane is his record in conducting the affairs of the county. Faithful and efficient too. He is successful in the management of his own large farming interests and he uses the same good business judgment on the court.

For the Legislature we offer C. C. Clendenen. Here is a county boy who has come into his own by perseverance and ability. He worked his way through school and college; he worked on the railroad; for the past eight years he has been deputy in the sheriff's office. No office in the state is kept in better shape. The sheriff office is one that every citizen does business in sometime during the year. Not only does Mr. Clendenen keep the books right, but he is so kind and obliging that he comes as near as any could to make taxpaying a pleasure. The next legislature will deal with the question of taxation, and we consider eight years in charge of a sheriff's office first class training in dealing with needed changes in our tax laws.

Last but not least we have the office of County Surveyor—a position of honor and responsibility and no pay. W. R. Sutton is on the ticket to succeed himself to this important office. As long as Mr. Sutton will accept this office, we urge his election.

Quaint Nicknames

That schoolboys—and schoolgirls—are so addicted to the bestowal of nicknames is in accordance with race development. Backward races bestowed nicknames to the exclusion of patronymics. When I lived in Madeira, says a correspondent to an English paper, I knew peasants who had forgotten what their real names were—if they had ever known them! There were among my acquaintance, Cabage Soup, Five Farthings, Mrs. Blackbird and Hot Water Jug, besides Miss Codfish and Sweet Potato. The reasons why these names were given were unknown, yet somehow they all undoubtedly fitted!

The Muse

"Going into commerce, eh?"
"Yes," responded the poet. "I'd rather celebrate good beans than a bum spring." — Louisville Courier-Journal.

VOTE FOR

William M. Buckley

of Pocahontas County

For STATE SENATOR

Republican Ticket

Pocahontas has not had a senator for thirty years

Political adv

TAYLOR ON TAXATION

Fayetteville, W. Va., Oct. 23, 1928
—J. Alfred Taylor, Democratic candidate for Governor, made public here to-day a letter addressed by him to Walter S. Hallanan in reply to an open letter sent to Mr. Taylor by Mr. Hallanan some time ago. Mr. Hallanan took Mr. Taylor to task for his statement that he would, if elected Governor, work toward a tax reducing program which would include the abolition of the Gross Sales Tax. The gubernatorial candidate's reply is in full as follows:

October 23, 1928
Hon. Walter Hallanan,
Charleston, W. Va.

Dear Sir:
I have read with great interest your open letter of September 25, 1928, directed to me and published throughout the state. I am very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to make my position clear concerning the questions involved, and only regret that my time has been so taken up in the campaign as to have made it impossible to sooner reply.

Your letter says:
"As a citizen of West Virginia I am much interested in your statement as published in the Charleston Gazette of September 22, in which you promise to work toward a tax reducing program which will include the abolition of the gross sales tax."

"And then proceeds to say that you think it only fair to ask me to take the people into my confidence as to the plan which I propose.

I may not at this time be in a position to state, specifically all the measures which I would recommend, but I will start out with the proposition that first and foremost I would endeavor to give the people an honest and economical administration in every department of government, something which they have not had during the past eight years of Republican rule.

My experience as a member of the House of Delegates in 1917 and 1921, and as a member of Congress for two sessions, and as a careful student of public affairs, has impressed me with the fact that the first essential is honesty, the next is efficiency and the next is economy. This is the sort of administration I pledge the people, and is part of my program concerning both taxation and expenditure.

in six years.
You ask my plans for reducing the tax burdens and thus rendering unnecessary the gross sales tax. I am doubly gratified that these questions have been propounded by you, Senator Hallanan, for the reason that you occupied the exalted position of State Tax Commissioner for a part of the time to which my reply will necessarily relate, and that of a member of the State Senate for another portion of the time; and I therefore will not be required to go as much into detail as if dealing with some one less familiar with the facts.

The Gross Sales law was enacted by the Legislature of 1921, of which I was a member, both houses of which being overwhelmingly Republican. The measure was at first voted down on the ground that in the first place the additional revenues to be raised thereby were wholly unnecessary if the state government should be economically administered, and because even though additional revenues were needed, the gross sales tax was unfair, oppressive and inequitable, if for no other reason than that it imposed a tax upon the gross proceeds of sales without regard to whether such sales were, at a profit or at a loss. But under the whip and spur of the entire executive official family, who forthwith and in full force descended upon the Legislature, headed by Governor Morgan, who made a powerful appeal in an address delivered in the hall of the House of Delegates and begged for the extra revenues, enough recalcitrants were lashed into line and the bill was passed and became a law. At the time of the passage of this bill I took a firm stand against it, arguing that if more economy were exercised in the conduct of state government it would not be necessary to devise new methods of taxation.

It was estimated that this gross sales tax would yield in the neighborhood of \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 per annum, and of course the Legislature and executives felt in duty bound to devise ways and means for spending it.

They succeeded beautifully in this, and now instead of \$6,000,000, the cost of the last year of Governor Cornwell's administration, they are spending \$12,000,000 per annum, the gross sales tax having gradually increased to about \$4,000,000 per annum, as stated in your letter.

You know, Senator Hallanan, much better than I, because it is from your reports as Tax Commissioner that many of my figures and illustrations are taken, that with the passage of the gross sales law in 1921, began the riot of ruthless expenditure which has grown in volume and intensity every hour down to the present moment, keeping pace

with the increase in revenue derived from gross sales tax. In a few instances you called attention in your reports to unauthorized expenditures of many thousands of dollars, but evidently wearied of the effort because no attention was paid to the alarm.

Now let me point out a few items going to make up the millions of dollars of wholly useless expenditures of this tax money in the past two Republican administrations. In the Legislative session of 1917 there was a Democratic House and a Republican Senate, and for that session the entire cost was \$124,963. Four years later when both Houses of the Legislature were Republican, and the gross sales tax bill was passed, the expense mounted to \$306,705.

Then came the session of 1923, when the Senate was overwhelmingly Republican and the House was overwhelmingly Democratic. For that session the expenses of the two Houses for the 108 days, regular and extended sessions, were as follows:

| House of Delegates: | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Compensation of Members | \$47,500.00 |
| Per diem of officers & attaches | \$26,434.00 |
| Mileage of members | \$6,352.00 |
| Contingent expenses | \$3,370.24 |
| Miscellaneous | \$3,442.30 |
| | \$87,098.54 |

| Senate: | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Compensation of members | \$15,000.00 |
| Per diem of officers & attaches | \$33,077.00 |
| Mileage of members | \$2,155.60 |
| Contingent expenses | \$10,809.63 |
| Miscellaneous | \$4,398.83 |
| | \$95,441.06 |

Grand total regular session 1923 \$182,539.60
Thus the Democratic House of 94 members paid its officers and attaches \$26,434.00 and the Senate with 30 members paid for the same service \$63,077.00.

The Legislature of 1925 was Republican in both branches and its session of 64 days cost the taxpayers the snug sum of \$346,570.00, or \$164,051.00 more than the session of 1923. For pay of officers and attaches the House expended \$112,774.65 for 64 days as against \$26,077.00 paid by the Democratic House of 1923 for 108 days, and the Senate \$84,239.00.

For the session of 1927, both branches Republican, total expense \$288,073.00, per diem officers and attaches, Senate \$100,675, House \$85,952.

From these figures of yours and those of your successor in office as State Tax Commissioner, you can readily see that approximately one-